

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: CZECHOSLOVAKIAN OPENING
STATEMENT, OCTOBER 30, 1973

1. THE FOLLOWING IS ENGLISH TRANSLATION PROVIDED
BY CZECHOSLOVAKIAN DELEGATION OF THEIR OPENING
STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR R. KLEIN IN THE
OPENING MBFR PLENARY SESSION ON OCTOBER 30, 1973.

BEGIN TEXT:

MR. CHAIRMAN,
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PERMIT ME, ON BEHALF OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION, TO VOICE OUR SATISFACTION OVER THE FACT THAT WE ARE NOW, AFTER THE FOUR MONTHS WHICH HAVE ELAPSED SINCE OUR EXPLORATORY TALKS, MEETING ONCE MORE IN VIENNA IN ORDER TO START THE NEGOTIATIONS PROPER ON A MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THESE NEGOTIATIONS FULLY CORRESPOND TO THE LONG LASTING EFFORTS WHICH THE SOCIALIST STATES HAVE ALWAYS HAD IN MIND, WITH THEIR PEACE-LOVING FOREIGN POLICY AIMING AT THE CONSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN STATES HAVING DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS, THUS FULFILLING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN NATIONS WHICH HAVE SO DEEPLY SUFFERED FROM TWO DEVASTATING WORLD WARS AND WHICH THEREFORE HAVE A VITAL INTEREST TO WITNESS ON OUR CONTINENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLIMATE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION.

WE ARE OPENING OUR TALKS IN A FAVOURABLE ATMOSPHERE, MARKED BY A STEADY PROCESS OF DETENTE IN THE RELATIONS AMONG EUROPEAN STATES.

THE NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON NOW IN GENEVA ON THE SUBJECT OF EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION REPRESENT, THERE IS NO DOUBT, AN OUTSTANDING PROOF OF THE FAVOURABLE CHANGES OCCURRING IN EUROPE. WE ARE FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THIS ALL-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE MAY CREATE A MORE SOLID BASIS FOR THE RELATIONS AMONG EUROPEAN STATES, THAT IT WILL REPRESENT A HISTORICAL MILESTONE IN THE PEACE-LOVING EFFORTS OF OUR CONTINENT AND ALSO EXERT A FAVOURABLE INFLUENCE ON THE EVOLUTION OF THINGS IN THE WHOLE WORLD. THE WORLD CONGRESS OF THE PEACE FORCES IN MOSCOW ATTESTS OF THE STEADY GROWTH OF THE MOVEMENT FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT, THE EVER GREATER FORCE WITH WHICH THE PROGRESSIVE AND REALISTIC TENDENCIES ARE ASSERTING THEMSELVES IN THE WORLD.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE XIVTH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND OF THE MEETING OF THE LEADERS OF THE COMMUNIST AND WORKERS PARTIES OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, HELD IN CRIMEA, THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT ASSIGNS THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE

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TO ALL PROPOSALS AND MEASURES AIMING AT THE CESSATION OF THE ARMAMENTS RACE AND AT AN EFFECTIVE DISARMAMENT. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC BASIS ITSELF OF THESE VERY PRINCIPLES IN ITS APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND WILL, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, SPARE NO EFFORT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE POLITICAL DETENTE MIGHT BE ACCOMPANIED BY A DETENTE IN THE MILITARY FIELD

AS WELL.

ALTHOUGH CONSCIOUS OF THE GREAT COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEM AT HAND, WE REMAIN NEVERTHELESS OPTIMISTIC. WE ARE DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT GOOD WILL, A COMMON EFFORT ON THE PART OF ALL THE PARTICIPATING STATES, POLITICAL WISDOM AND A SPIRIT OF REALISM - SUCH AS WE HAVE ALREADY WITNESSED THEM AT OUR EXPLORATORY TALKS - WILL PERMIT US TO FULFIL WITH SUCCESS THE GREAT TASKS INCUMBENT ON US; THIS WILL, I AM SURE, BE GREETED BY ALL EUROPEAN NATIONS WITHOUT DISTINCTION. IT CALLS HOWEVER IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS FOR A STRICT AND GENERAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR EACH PARTY.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WE ARE OPENING TODAY WILL BE CARRIED ON IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT AND WILL RESULT IN AN AGREEMENT ON CONCRETE MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THE FINAL DOCUMENTS WORKED OUT BY THE EXPLORATORY TALKS OF VIENNA REPRESENT A GOOD BASIS FOR OUR FURTHER WORK, SINCE WE HAVE, IN MY OPINION, BY DELIMITATING THE STATUS OF THE PARTICIPANTS TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, ANSWERED THE QUESTION AS TO THE AREA IN WHICH THIS MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IS TO BE CARRIED OUT. THIS ALLOWS US NOW TO FULLY CONCENTRATE ON THE SUBJECT MATTER OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS, I.E. ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

WE QUITE UNDERSTAND THE INTEREST WHICH WHICH THE NATIONS OF EUROPE FOLLOW THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS AND THIS IS WHY WE SHOULD LIKE, ALSO AT THIS STAGE, TO REASSERT THE POSITION WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED, NAMELY THAT

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OTHER EUROPEAN STATES, INTERESTED TO DO SO, MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEBATES AS OBSERVERS.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION IS PREPARED TO DO ALL WITHIN ITS POWER IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE OTHER DELEGATIONS, TO A SUCCESSFUL TERMINATION OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS; SUCH A RESULT WOULD BE A FURTHER SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE POSITIVE CHANGES ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT.

PERMIT ME, MR. CHAIRMAN, BEFORE CONSLUDING, TO EXPRESS ON BEHALF OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION, OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE

FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS THEY HAVE CREATED FOR OUR WORK IN
VIENNA AND FOR THE CORDIAL HOSPITALITY GRANTED TO US.

END TEXT.HUMES

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